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All applications respecting subscription to the "Board of Trade Journal," or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London, to Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street.

The principal publications of the Board of Trade will be found in a list facing p. vi. of the advertisements, and a list of the Annual and Miscellaneous Reports and the Treaty Series issued by the Foreign Office, and of the Reports issued by the Colonial Office on pp. 658-9.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in a Trade Report published by the Foreign Office, since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," will be found on p. 656.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

Tenders for White Lead.

The Board of Trade have been notified by the East Indian Railway Company that the Company is prepared to receive tenders for the supply and delivery of white lead as per specification to be seen at the Company's Offices, Nicholas Lane, E.C.

Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary to the Company, marked "Tender for White Lead," not later than one o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the 1st day of April.

A

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

The Company reserves to itself the right to divide the order, also to decline any tender without assigning a reason, and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

For each specification a fee of 1*l.* 1*s.* is charged, which cannot under any circumstances be returned.

Dock Construction: Bombay.

According to the "Times of India" of the 28th February last, the Bombay Port Trust has prepared, subject to the sanction of Government, a scheme for constructing a great new dock with a water area of close upon 50 acres. The site will be between the Ballard Pier and the present docks. The dock will have a depth on the sill of 33¼ feet at high water ordinary neap tides. Its entrance will be through gates convertible into a lock 600 feet long. There will be a dry dock from 800 to 850 feet in length. The scheme includes a deep water dock-head pier 1,250 feet long, where mail steamers will be able to moor, and passengers will be able to step from the ship into the railway train. A branch line will run from Coorla through Mazagon to the dock-head pier. The Ballard Pier will be trebled in length and connected with the dock-head pier, and the water space inside the angle of the two piers will be reclaimed and used as sites for bulk oil installations. The cost of the scheme, exclusive of the railway, is roughly estimated at three crores of rupees (Rs. 30,000,000). It is expected that it will be carried out without any additional charges upon the trade of the port.

CANADA.

Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade.

The following were among the recent enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the **Canadian Government Offices, Victoria Street, S.W.**, where further information may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A Glasgow firm interested in wood-pulp are looking for a new source of supply, and ask to be referred to Canadian producers not already represented in the United Kingdom.

Enquiry is made for names of Canadian firms requiring an agent to represent them on commission in the Midlands by a person offering good references, who has had experience in selling manufactured leather goods, stationers' sundries, fancy goods, &c.

A Sheffield firm of tool makers have asked to be placed in communication with Canadian buyers of such goods as they manufacture.

A North of England firm desire to get into communication with Canadian importers of oakum and dry spun yarn.

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—*continued.*

Canadian Enquiries.—A Montreal firm of manufacturers' agents and importers are anxious to secure the representation of English makers of cotton duck.

A correspondent at Kingston, Ontario, has asked to be referred to some of the principal importers of Canadian cheese in London, Liverpool, Bristol and Glasgow.

A Canadian firm make enquiry respecting the demand in the United Kingdom for casein.

The person having a controlling interest in some large tracts of timber land in Quebec and on the Labrador coast, desires to get into communication with investors and operators in the pulp and paper trades.

Foreign Enquiry.—An enquiry for Canadian seed peas has been received from a correspondent at Angers (France).

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, Victoria Street, S.W.

Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute,** from the Curator of which Section further particulars may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A Scotch manufacturer of jute and linen goods wishes to be placed in communication with Canadian wholesale importers.

A Lancashire house ask to be placed in communication with Canadian shippers of wool.

The manufacturers of engine packing af all kinds are prepared to appoint suitable Canadian resident agents.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Curator of the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, S.W.

EGYPT.

Tenders for Railway Tickets.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade has received from the Administration of the Egyptian State Railways, Cairo, a notification to the effect that tenders will be received up to the 9th April for the supply of 12,700,000 railway tickets (unprinted) in accordance with the samples and conditions of contract, which may be seen on application at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any

day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Specifications, with forms of tender, can be obtained upon application to Lieut.-Col. J. H. Western, R.E., C.M.G., and upon payment of 2*s.* each copy.

DENMARK.

Electric Crane.

The "Berlingske Tidende" of 16th March, publishes a notice from the Lighting Department of Copenhagen inviting tenders for the supply of a 30-ton electric travelling crane for the Gothersgade Electric Works. Drawings, specification, and conditions of tender may be obtained from the office of the Electric Works, 30, Gothersgade, Copenhagen, at a cost of 20 kroner (22*s.* 3*d.*) which sum is repaid when the tender is handed in and the drawings, &c., returned. Tenders must be sent to the Copenhagen Lighting Department ("Kjøbenhavns Belysningsvæsen"), Vestre Boulevard, Copenhagen, B., by midday on 7th April.

Coal.

The "Berlingske Tidende" of 19th March contains a notice emanating from the Lolland-Falster Railway Company calling for tenders for the supply of about 35,000 centners (about 1,700 tons) of Longrigg Coal. Particulars can be seen at the office of the Company, at the Exchange, Maribo. No date for the receipt of tenders is mentioned in the notice.

Cement.

The "Berlingske Tidende" or 21st March publishes a notice of the Copenhagen Roads and Sewers Office, inviting tenders for the supply of 10,000 centners (about 490 tons) of Portland cement, in accordance with conditions which can be seen at the above mentioned office at the Roadhus, Copenhagen. Written tenders marked "Tilbud paa Levering af Cement," must be sent before midday on 4th April.

SPAIN.

Telegraphic Insulators.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of the 17th March contains a Royal Order authorising the Government, as represented by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, to acquire by direct purchase 20,000 telegraph insulators, No. 2, made of wood and porcelain on the "Herrero" system, for the immediate requirements of the service.

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—*continued.*

Contract for Waggons.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of the 18th March contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be received during the term of 30 days from the date of the "Gaceta" announcement in the Secretariat of the Port Works Committee at Vigo, for the supply of ten waggons for the service of that port, at the upset price of 32,430 pesetas, or about 963*l.* A provisional deposit of 5 per cent. of the upset price is required to qualify any tender.

Railway Plant and Rolling Stock.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of the 19th March contains a decree granting to the San Martin-Lieres-Gijon-Musel Railway Company the concession to construct and work for 99 years a narrow gauge line from Tremañes to Veriña connecting with the projected railway from Veriña to the port of El Musel. This concession was authorised by a Royal Order published on the 14th December, 1901 (see "Board of Trade Journal," page 533, of 19th December, 1901).

Tramway Equipment.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of the 22nd March contains an Order authorising Don Laureano Salgado Rodriguez, of Caldas de Reyes (Pontevedra), to carry out surveys for the following tramways:—

1. From Vigo to Porriño by Redondela.
2. From Villagarcia de Arosa to San Lazaro and the mines of El Sar by Santiago.
3. From Pontevedra to El Grove by Sanjenjo.
4. From Caldas de Reyes to Cambados by Vilanoviña and Nogueira.

Telegraph Posts.

The same "Gaceta" also contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened 32 days after the publication of the notice, at 11 a.m., at the Office of the Inspector-General, Chief of the Telegraphic Section of "Correos y Telegrafos," Calle de Carretas 10, Madrid, for the supply of 10,000 pine telegraph posts injected with sulphate of copper on the "Boucherie" system; 2,000 posts of 8 metres and 8,000 of 7 metres, at the upset price of 13 pesetas, or about 10*s.* 5*d.*, and 11 pesetas, or about 9*s.* 10*d.* respectively, per post. A provisional deposit of 5 per cent. of the value of the contract at the upset price is required.

The conditions of the contract and requirements which the posts have to fulfil are set forth in the "Gaceta."

The "Gacetas" containing the above notices may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Openings for British Trade.

TRIPOLI.

State of Trade in the Interior.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul at Benghazy, reporting that the following information as to the state of trade in the interior has recently been received from a reliable source.

"On account of the insecurity of the traffic with Waday, foreign traders there decline to take any risks for goods sent to that country. Such risks are only assumed in the case of goods going to Kufra and Geru.

Demand for Wheat, Sugar, "Mahmudy" and Tea.

"There exists a great demand for wheat, sugar, white 'mahmudy' and tea, principally at Kufra, but no doubt a portion of these articles is intended for traffic with the south. Much unbleached calico is sold at Geru, but not so much of the favourite T-cloth in pieces of 14 yards, locally known as Smainy or Ismaily."

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

In a report recently received at the Foreign Office, H.M. Consul at New Orleans, writes as follows with regard to the openings for British trade in that district:—

Fire Bricks.

"I am informed by the Salmon Brick and Lumber Company of this city that there might be an opening for fire-bricks from the United Kingdom, provided they could be placed on the market at New Orleans at 20 dols. (4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*) per 1,000. The measurements of the bricks should be 4½ by 9 by 2½ inches.

"The present duty on bricks is 1 dol. 25 c. (5*s.* 2½*d.*) per ton.

"Fire-bricks are in great demand in places adjoining this city for building purposes, and, at present, come chiefly from St. Louis. Formerly a large number of fire-bricks used to be imported from Liverpool per Harrison line of steamers.

Tea.

"As regards tea, I am informed by the manager of the New Orleans Import Company that there should be an opening for increased sales, although, at first, probably not on a large scale, this being an essentially coffee-drinking city. There appears to be an increasing demand for green tea in the State of Texas, which is being chiefly supplied by the above-named firm. The taste in New Orleans is more for black or mixed teas.

"In the custom-house statistics mention is made of only 10,238 lbs. of tea, valued at 391*l.*, as having been imported during the past year.

Openings for British Trade.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

Drugs, &c.

"In the chemical line of business druggists say that there should be a better local sale, than at present, of British patent medicines. The well advertised articles sell well, but there appears to be little or no demand for patent medicines, &c., that are not extensively advertised.

"About 9,713*l.* worth of drugs, &c., were imported during the year.

Hosiery.

"In articles of underwear the demand is for cheap light cotton and silk goods. The underwear, &c., sold in this city comes chiefly from Germany and France, and in order to meet the requirements of the climate, is made of the lightest possible stuff.

"There might, however, be an opportunity for a light porous fabric in linen mesh, or cellular under garments, provided they could be placed on this market at lower prices than the Dr. Deimel and Ringheim's ramie underwear which are sold at about the following prices :—

——	Price.		
	£	s.	d.
Men's undershirts...	0	13	4
,, drawers	0	13	4
Night shirts	1	2	8
Suits	1	11	0

"Hosiers inform me that the demand for these ventilated garments is increasing, but that it is difficult to sell them in any quantities at present prices.

Need of Commercial Travellers to Push British Goods.

"From personal enquiries made amongst merchants, &c., I learn that there is but little chance of British imports increasing in this city until our firms at home see fit to send out commercial travellers to canvass the local business community for orders.

"New Orleans is a conservative city, in the sense that they are accustomed to deal with old customers, and goods are imported from same firms abroad year after year. The foreign firms deal with their New Orleans clients principally through their representatives (commercial travellers) who cross the Atlantic at certain periods with samples of their firm's goods. These commercial travellers show their samples here, study local requirements, and return with orders. A number of French and German commercial travellers are in the habit of thus coming to New Orleans periodically, though it should be said that most of the business is done through New York." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,942.)

NOTE.—See p. 639 for a notice as to increased direct imports at New Orleans.

Openings for British Trade.

MEXICO.

Accessories for Electric Power Plant.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Mexico City, forwarding a copy of the "Boletin Municipal," the official paper of the Town Council of the City of Mexico, dated the 24th February, containing particulars of a concession granted by the City of Mexico to the Mexican Light and Power Company of Montreal, Canada, for the installation within the City limits of receiving stations, and wires for the transmission of electrical energy from the waterfalls of Necaxa, situated between 90 and 100 miles from Mexico City, and in the district of Huachinango in the State of Puebla.

The electricity thus brought to Mexico City will be used for lighting, motive power, and any other purposes, subject to the conditions of the concession.

The wires may be overhead in certain streets but not in all. In all streets permission is granted to place underground wires.

The voltage is not to exceed 6,600 volts from the transforming stations to the points of consumption.

Within four years the concessionnaire must be in a position to provide 8,000 horse-power of electric energy within the city.

The full text of the concession (in the original) may be consulted on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Sacking and Pack-Thread.

A report from the German Consulate at Buenos Aires states that the demand for linen pack-thread in the Argentine is an important one, and that the import of all the usual descriptions of thread is also fairly considerable. In connection with various branches of agriculture, in the raw sugar industry, in milling, and in the numerous other industries of the country, sacking and pack-thread find a ready market. At the time of the wheat harvest the price of binder twine advanced. It is stated that the sale of such thread used for the harvest alone amounts to 300,000 pesos gold (60,000*l.*) per annum.

Large sack manufactories are established in Argentina, but they only do the cutting and the sewing, the sacking and the thread being imported. The report gives a list of the names and addresses of the manufacturers.

Fishing Nets.

The German Consulate further reports that the demand for fishing nets is worthy of attention.

Openings for British Trade.

CHINA.

Mineral Oils, Lamps, Glass, Crockery, Hardware, &c.

In an article on Russian trade with China which appears on pp. 621-2 it is stated that there is a good opening in China for mineral oils for lighting purposes, lamps, glass and crockery ware, iron and iron manufactures, sugar, hardware, and perfumery.

UNIFORM TIME IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Board of Trade have received information, through the Colonial Office, to the effect that an uniform time, based on the 30th meridan, or two hours east of Greenwich, has been adopted by all the South African Governments with the exception of that of German South-West Africa. They have further been informed, through the same channel, that on the 28th February last at 11.30 p.m. the time was advanced to midnight in the Transvaal and that similar steps were taken in the other South African Colonies, except Natal where no change was necessary.

RUSSIAN TRADE WITH CHINA.

The "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" translates an article from the "Viestnik Finanzof" dealing with Russian commercial relations with the Far East, a question which is of considerable interest in view of the completion of railway communication between European Russia and China.

After reviewing the progress of this trade since 1885, and pointing out that in the three years 1898–1900 Russia's exports to China amounted to 20,485,000 roubles, and her imports from China to 129,753,000 roubles, as compared with 25,553,000 roubles and 193,957,000 roubles respectively during the quinquennial period 1893–97, the article gives a list of the principal goods exported from Russia to China during the years 1899 and 1900, from which the following table has been compiled :—

Russian Trade with China.

—	1899.	1900.
	Roubles.	Roubles.
Cotton goods	4,056,000	3,819,000
Mineral oils (for lighting)	1,358,000	1,129,000
Russian leather...	426,000	254,000
Animals	145,000	71,000
Woollen goods	143,000	80,000
Iron and steel	123,000	115,000
Hides	105,000	77,000
Horns and hoofs	91,000	70,000
Fox, wolf and beaver furs	89,000	56,000
Sugar, refined	80,000	87,000
Cereals	71,000	66,000
Iron manufactures	68,000	73,000
Linen and hempen goods	53,000	27,000
Dyes and colours	52,000	70,000
Other merchandise	666,000	708,000
Total ... ... Roubles	7,526,000	6,702,000
Total ... ... £	794,000	707,000

It will thus be seen that more than one-half of Russia's exports to China consists of cotton piece-goods.

The following table shows the principal articles which Russia imports from China :—

—	1899.	1900.
	Roubles.	Roubles.
Tea	35,375,000	37,655,000
Cotton cloths	1,748,000	1,864,000
Raw silk...	1,112,000	879,000
Silk and half-silken fabrics	989,000	806,000
Hides not dressed	904,000	1,003,000
Wool	835,000	888,000
Furs	480,000	468,000
Sma'l cattle	473,000	427,000
Woollens	366,000	401,000
Great cattle	258,000	378,000
Horses	159,000	68,000
Linen and linen manufactures	128,000	245,000
Raw cotton	62,000	169,000
Other goods	626,000	694,000
Total ... ... Roubles	43,515,000	45,945,000
Total ... ... £	4,593,000	4,850,000

It is stated that 70 per cent. of Russia's trade with China is carried on by the trans-continental route, and the "Viestnik Finanzof" considers that there is a great future before this trade if Russian merchants would only push their goods. From a detailed analysis of the statistics, it appears, says the "Viestnik Finanzof," that there is a good opening in China for mineral oils for illuminating purposes, lamps, glass and crockery ware, iron and iron manufactures, sugar, hardware, and perfumery.

CONDITION OF TRADE AT VLADIVOSTOCK.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a report by the British Commercial Agent at Vladivostock on the present condition of trade at that port, from which the following extracts have been made. The report has been compiled from various petitions submitted by the Vladivostock Chamber of Commerce to the Russian Minister of Finance:—

"Russian colonisation in Eastern Siberia has been carried on during a period of nearly half a century, with the assistance of the Government and at an enormous expenditure. This governmental help has given an impetus to the establishment of private enterprises and merchants in this district, to the purchase of real property, and to the establishment of various private industrial and mining undertakings. Many million roubles have been spent on the assumption that the geographical position of Vladivostock makes it the Russian capital in the Far East, and in the belief that the Government would continue to support the industries of this region. The Government has invested in the Priamursky district over 400,000,000 roubles for purposes of colonisation and in the encouragement of various kinds of enterprises, in the building of railways and in the opening up of the country by steam navigation. At the beginning of 1901, however, a new state of things took place, which has placed the Ussuri region and its capital, Vladivostock, in a difficult position. . . . .

"Even without taking into consideration the prosperous years of commercial activity in Vladivostock, while the Chinese-Eastern railway was being built, it is evident that Vladivostock is the only natural and convenient port in the Russian Far East. Vladivostock has always been the centre for exports from the Priamursky region and the chief port for the import of merchandise both for the Priamursky region and the Primorsky district, and now is in a position for acting as the chief northern port for the export and import of goods to the neighbouring countries of Manchuria and Korea.

"The rapid growth of Vladivostock raised the welfare of the population of the whole of the South Ussuri district, and this growth was attributable to the idea that Vladivostock would become the chief centre of industries and trade for exclusively supplying the Manchurian markets with Russian and local produce, and in order to be prepared to supply such markets manufactories were established near Vladivostock and in the surrounding district. . . . .

"The population of the whole of the Priamursky region, spread over a territory three times the size of France, having an area of 2,600,000 square verstes (square verste = ·44 of a square mile), comprises only 1,000,000 inhabitants, or one man to every 10 square verstes; the requirements of this population are so insignificant that there could be no demand for the goods manufactured by the local factories, and the expense of working would never justify the establishment of such industries. The normal economic condition of Vladivostock and of the surrounding districts suddenly changed,

Condition of Trade at Vladivostock.

and instead of a natural prosperous condition a crisis took place, which threatened to stop all trade and industries. . . . ."

This crisis was brought about by the following causes:—

"(*a*) The closing of the free port.

"As the distant Russian manufacturing centres cannot supply Vladivostock with cheap goods, it was dependent on foreign trade and local factories, which were entirely supplied with raw material from foreign countries. The closing of the free port therefore had a bad effect on foreign trade and also on local industries, especially in Vladivostock. The closing of the free port and at the same time the opening to free trade through Dalny and Port Arthur of foreign merchandise into Manchuria, has caused Vladivostock on the one hand to lose the home markets for which it was the centre, and on the other hand it stopped the foreign trade with Manchuria and Korea.

"Before the closing of the free port, the local factories were able to import raw material from China and Japan at such cheap rates, that they were able to compete with foreign-made goods, but as an example of the results of closing the free ports, the following history of a local match factory may be taken. This factory cost several hundred thousand roubles to establish, and until the opening of the southern branch of the Chinese Eastern Railway, Manchuria exclusively used matches made by this factory. When the free port of Vladivostock was closed the duty on the raw material for match making amounted to 7 roubles per case; and as the railway from Port Arthur to Harbin was by this time finished, Japan was able to compete so successfully that she has taken the entire match market of Manchuria, so that Siberian matches can now no longer be sold.

"The insignificant amount of capital invested in the district and the entire absence of uninvested capital, has necessitated the curtailment of trade, on account of it being impossible to pay the heavy duties on imports, and it has become impossible to order goods in large quantities for purposes of holding stocks. This has of course been to the benefit of foreign traders in Manchuria holding stocks.

"(*b*) The organisation of the Custom-house, and the delay in examining goods.

"The establishment of the Customs, with its complicated formalities and the difficulty and delay in having goods examined and passed, as well as the expense in connection therewith has diverted the transit of goods through Vladivostock for the northern ports of Siberia, and for the Island of Saghalien, to the Japanese ports. Formerly these cargoes came to Vladivostock, and part of them remained here during the winter for storage, thus giving a profit to the local inhabitants; now, however, to avoid the formalities and expense of the Russian Custom-house, the goods go through Japan and are stored by the Japanese either in Japan or in Gensan.

Condition of Trade at Vladivostock.

"(*c*) The permission of the Government allowing the free import of Chinese goods from Manchuria only through the land frontier, has given an impetus to the contraband trade in foreign goods, it being impossible to guard the whole frontier of 3,500 versts, with the present number of military posts, of which there are only ten. It is impossible for these small isolated posts to distinguish between Chinese and foreign goods, as there are many factories in China which make imitation European goods, whilst in Europe imitation Chinese goods are manufactured for the Chinese markets. The result is that many foreign goods come into the Priamursky Province under the form of Chinese goods without paying duty.

"The facility for smuggling has affected the commercial intercourse of the large trading houses who wish to trade honestly and in a legal manner; they are stocked with duty paid goods without being able to find a market for them, while the contraband goods find a ready market through the small traders and retail merchants. . . . .

"(*d*) The prohibition against importing Chinese goods duty free through the sea-board ports, and the permission to import Chinese goods duty free over the land frontiers.

"As we do not know positively the commercial reasons that led the Chinese Eastern railway to create the town of Dalny as the terminus of the railway, we are not able to discuss them, but the results have been to stop the through transit of goods viâ Vladivostock to Manchuria; it is presumable that the chief stimulus that led to the commercial policy of the railway was the large increase in the profits earned by the southern branch of the railway, which passes through the densely populated districts of Southern Manchuria. This increase in the profits of the railway has been made at the expense of Vladivostock and of the Ussuri region.

"(*e*) The abolition of the transit of goods to Manchuria *viâ* the Ussuri railway, the rivers Ussuri, Sungari, Amur, and horse caravans. Previously to the closing of the port of Vladivostock large quantities of goods were transported along the above-mentioned rivers, but now this has been practically stopped and the steamship companies are threatened with complete loss of business, as in the absence of local trade they depended on the transit of through cargoes. It must not be forgotten that over 18,000,000 roubles have been invested in this steamship service, a large part of it being English capital.

"The combination of the above-mentioned circumstances has had a bad effect on the trade of the Priamursky regions and in the Ussuri districts, as may be seen by comparing the following statistical information about the number and amount of protested promissory notes. These statistics are supplied by the banks and public notaries:—

Condition of Trade at Vladivostock.

In the year						Roubles.
1895 were protested		75	promissory notes	for	sum of	60,712
1896	,, ,,	89	,,	,,	,,	71,557
1897	,, ,,	100	,,	,,	,,	62,668
1898	,, ,,	124	,,	,,	,,	133,230
1899	,, ,,	190	,,	,,	,,	144,091
1900	,, ,,	413	,,	,,	,,	463,390
1901	,, ,,	227 (only part included)				353,150
1902 (for 8 months)		540				607,442

"This statement shows at a glance the abnormal state of the trade in Vladivostock. . . . The same is seen by looking at statistical information relative to the import of cargoes to Vladivostock before and after the building of the Chinese Eastern railway. The building of the railway gave a temporary stimulus to the trade of Vladivostock, but that period of time had not been taken into consideration in the following table:—

					Tons.
"For the year	1895	the total imports were		...	188,316
,, ,,	1896	,,	,,	...	194,718
,, ,,	1897	,,	,,	...	219,614
,, ,,	1898	imports were	...	...	240,571
,, ,,	1899	exclusive of transit		...	338,278
,, ,,	1900	,,	,,	...	378,857
,, ,,	1901	,,	,,	...	330,442
,, ,,	1902	,,	,,	...	136,970

"From this it is seen that Vladivostock was developing its trade in a normal manner, but that the trade is now declining. . . . These statistics, supplied from the large trading houses, show the trade has fallen off from 60 to 70 per cent. in comparison with last year. In order to improve the trade the following proposals have been submitted to the Minister of Finance by the Vladivostock Chamber of Commerce:—

"1. The establishment in the port of Vladivostock of a free harbour as is done in Europe; such a harbour would relieve the merchants of the heavy formalities of the Custom-house, facilitate the discharging of ships' cargoes, facilitate the storage of the cargo and reduce the cost of warehousing; this would attract through cargoes to Vladivostock and at the same time put Vladivostock on an equal footing with the other far Eastern ports.

"2. The permission to import Chinese goods duty free by sea as now allowed *viâ* Dalny.

"3. To put a stop to the preferential Tariff now in force for goods imported *viâ* Dalny, and to arrange a proportionate Tariff for each verste.

"4. The permission to re-establish the transit of through cargo to Manchuria *viâ* the Ussuri railroad, the Ussuri, the Sungari and Amur Rivers; this will assist the steamship companies and the people engaged in this trade."

TRADE OF BULGARIA IN 1902.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a despatch from H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Sofia, transmitting the official returns of Bulgarian trade for the fourth quarter of 1902. The Consul states that the total value of the imports during the year was 2,849,860*l.*, being 48,097*l.*, or 1·7 per cent. more than in 1901, and 996,176*l.*, or 54 per cent. more than in 1900. The category of imports showing the greatest increase was textiles, of which the value was 1,140,136*l.*, being 116,521*l.*, or 11 per cent. more than in 1901, and 608,261*l.*, or 114 per cent. more than in 1900. The greatest absolute increase in imports from any one country was in those from England, which amounted to a value of 608,634*l.*, being 57,959*l.*, or 9·3 per cent. more than in 1901, and 307,484*l.*, or 102 per cent. more than in 1900.

The following table shows the value of the principal categories of imports in the year 1902, as compared with the two preceding years:—

——	1900.	1901.	1902.
Yarns and textiles—	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Raw cotton and cotton waste	677,000	1,335,000	1,462,000
Cotton yarn, unbleached	1,555,000	2,951,000	3,357,000
" " bleached or dyed	630,000	918,000	1,530,000
Cotton cloths, bleached, dyed, &c.	1,035,000	2,912,000	2,977,000
" " unbleached, undyed, &c. ...	537,000	1,362,000	1,294,000
Printed calicoes, &c.	1,434,000	3,130,000	3,543,000
Woollen cloths	753,000	1,600,000	1,937,000
Other textile materials	6,676,000	11,382,000	12,403,000
Metals and metal manufactures (chiefly raw iron, sheet iron, nails, &c.)	5,198,000	6,209,000	6,594,000
Colonial produce (chiefly refined sugar and raw coffee)	3,984,000	4,434,000	4,782,000
Hides and skins and manufactures thereof (chiefly sole leather)	2,353,000	4,601,000	4,469,000
Machinery, instruments, and apparatus (chiefly agricultural machinery and implements, sewing machines, and tools)	2,786,000	4,474,000	3,900,000
Oils, greases, wax, and products thereof (chiefly olive oil and soaps)	1,829,000	3,438,000	3,060,000
Mineral oils (chiefly petroleum and naphtha)...	3,128,000	2,992,000	2,513,000
Paper of all kinds	1,289,000	1,847,000	2,154,000
Other articles	12,478,000	16,459,000	15,271,000
Total ... ... Francs	46,342,000	70,044,000	71,246,000
Total ... ... £	1,854,000	2,801,000	2,850,000

The total value of the exports was 4,147,380*l.*, being 836,590*l.* or 25 per cent. more than in 1901, and 1,988,075*l.*, or 92 per cent. more than in 1900. The category of exports showing the greatest increase was cereals, and the greatest absolute increase in exports to any one country was in those to England, which amounted to a

Trade of Bulgaria in 1902.

value of 979,960*l.*, being 344,948*l.*, or 54 per cent. more than in 1901, and 740,295*l.*, or 309 per cent. more than in 1900.

The principal items in the export trade during the year 1902, as compared with 1901 and 1900, were as follow:—

—	1900.	1901.	1902.
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Cereals of all kinds (chiefly wheat and maize)...	27,128,000	51,717,000	63,700,000
Eggs	2,443,000	4,389,000	6,592,000
Live animals	5,609,000	8,220,000	7,355,000
Colza seed	1,418,000	951,000	6,257,000
Rose essence	3,708,000	2,141,000	2,609,000
Building timber, &c.	990,000	1,321,000	1,401,000
Skins, raw and prepared	3,725,000	3,647,000	3,506,000
Textiles (chiefly woollen stuffs*)	4,324,000	4,781,000	5,496,000
Other articles	4,638,000	5,603,000	6,769,000
Total ... ... Francs	53,983,000	82,770,000	103,685,000
Total ... ... £	2,159,000	3,311,000	4,147,000

* Including a cloth called "abas," and the cloth of the country, "chayak."

COTTON GOODS TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

With reference to the statement on p. 357 of the Board of Trade Journal of the 19th February last, respecting the cotton goods trade of the United States of America for the calendar year, 1902, the following table which shows the exports of cotton goods (domestic manufacture) from that country to the undermentioned destinations during the month of January, 1902 and 1903, has been compiled from the official statistics issued by the United States Government:—

Cotton Goods Trade of the United States of America.

To—	Month of January. 1902.	1903.
Coloured and uncoloured cloths—	Yards.	Yards.
United Kingdom	459,783	437,710
France	—	5,450
Germany	17,006	7,300
Other Europe	585,661	203,071
British North America	1,070,441	1,283,799
Central America and British Honduras	1,065,614	1,448,758
Mexico	209,840	116,758
Cuba	378,371	58,672
Other West Indies and Bermuda	2,780,449	3,090,442
Argentina	147,380	219,065
Brazil	789,523	860,041
Chile	744,636	807,846
Colombia	1,671,454	3,246,538
Venezuela	1,052,175	—
Other South America	555,025	646,128
Chinese Empire	37,672,467	18,440,398
British East Indies	1,730,106	964,740
Hong-Kong	4,397	22,099
Japan	6,985	104,063
British Australasia	297,094	274,679
Philippine Islands	535,448	431,543
Other Asia and Oceania	553,779	5,645,041
British Africa	560,144	491,738
All other Africa	12,189	37,648
Other countries	15,934	—
Total quantity ... ... Yards	52,915,901	38,843,527
Total value ... ... Dols.	2,618,543	1,990,459
Other cotton goods—	Dollars.	Dollars.
United Kingdom	53,433	82,291
Belgium	5,283	3,671
France	3,030	2,118
Germany	52,330	145,876
Netherlands	2,365	4,633
Other Europe	7,127	12,051
British North America	168,079	154,498
Central America and British Honduras	35,069	18,537
Mexico	27,581	23,114
Cuba	9,954	13,302
Other West Indies and Bermuda	13,351	21,883
Argentina	29,344	15,975
Brazil	6,505	3,877
Chile	2,832	4,772
Colombia	6,889	18,636
Venezuela	2,205	—
Other South America	3,903	2,277
Chinese Empire	960	1,254
British East Indies	141	1,075
Hong-Kong	325	1,009
British Australasia	41,571	43,499
Philippine Islands	4,624	4,658
Other Asia and Oceania	3,434	4,076
British Africa	7,176	21,178
All other Africa	2,204	1,807
Other countries	212	649
Total value ... ... Dols.	489,927	606,716
Grand total value of all cotton goods exported...	3,108,470	2,597,175

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Table Bay Dock and Harbour Regulations Amended.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, a copy of a Government Notice issued on the 13th February, 1903, amending Clause 25 of Section 7 of the Table Bay Dock and Harbour Regulations, under Section 32 of the Harbour Boards Act, No. 36 of 1896, as follows:—

"25. Goods shall be cleared and the Customs warehousing or duty paid entries and the transhipping, delivery, forwarding or warehousing orders shall be presented with dock dues and entries and the landing and delivery charges, at the Board's Offices within 24 running hours of notice having been given and posted in Board's Offices that vessel is to be docked. (Sundays and holidays excepted).

"In the case of European mail steamers and of steamers coming direct from ports outside South Africa bringing their own shipping documents which could not have been received at this port at any earlier time by any other means, and vessels landing their cargoes by lighter, the time within which the entries and forwarding instructions or delivery or warehousing orders will be received, without payment of the extra charges leviable for late orders, will be 36 running hours after such vessel commences to discharge."

NEW ZEALAND.

Customs Decisions.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of an Order (No. 705) of the Commissioner of Trade and Customs, dated 14th January, 1903, giving decisions in relation to the Customs Acts affecting the undermentioned articles imported into New Zealand as follows:—

Articles, and how classed.	Rate of Duty.
Chocolate confectionery—viz., cakes in tinfoil, with wrapper of glazed paper in outer plain trade package—	
As in plain trade packages	3*d.* per lb.
Egg fillers (strips of cardboard cut so as to fit into each other at right angles, forming receptacles for protecting eggs packed in boxes)—	
As cardboard cut and shaped for boxes	25 % *ad val.*
Handles, detachable, for umbrellas—	
As parts of umbrellas	20 % *ad val.*
Lamp, the ever-ready electric head, for surgeons' use—	
As surgical instruments and appliances	Free.
Mills, bone, shell, and corn, made specially for poultry farming—	
As machinery for agricultural purposes	"

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

Articles, and how classed.	Rate of Duty.
Millstones—part of mill for grinding spices, &c., if imported fixed in the machine—	
As machinery not otherwise enumerated	20 % *ad val.*
If imported separately—	
As grindstones	Free.
Screens, window or door (light frames fitted with fine wire gauze, constructed to fit windows and doors of various sizes)—	
As furniture not otherwise enumerated	25 % *ad val.*
Seed-dressing machine, power—	
As machinery for agricultural purposes	Free.
Sharpeners for plane-irons or chisels—	
As hardware (but the grindstone or oilstone therein Free)...	20 % *ad val.*
Grindstone or oilstone, if imported fixed in the machine—	
As machinery not otherwise enumerated	20 " "
If imported separately	Free.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Drawback of Duty on Exportation of Ready-Made Clothing.

The Board of Trade have received from the Governor of Newfoundland a copy of the Rules and Regulations, dated 26th February, 1903, in reference to a drawback of duty on ready-made clothing exported from the Colony.

The following is a summarised statement of the Rules in question :—

" A drawback equal to the duty paid on the material used in the manufacture of Ready-made Clothing and Oil Clothes, shall be granted to the manufacturer when such Clothing is exported from this Colony for consumption in foreign markets.

" In order to obtain the aforesaid drawback it will be necessary for the manufacturer to notify the Customs' authorities of his intention to pack his wares for export. All goods so packed must be checked and put up under the supervision of an Officer of Customs who shall carefully examine the goods and note the value of the articles composing the manufacture.

" No drawback will be paid unless the examining officer's certificate is attached thereto certifying to the correctness of the statement of claim, and not until the landing certificate is returned duly signed by the Officer of Customs at the place to which the goods were exported; no goods so exported for drawback of duty shall be again imported into this Colony unless upon payment of the duty ordered by the Revenue Law to be levied on the like goods when imported."

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

RUSSIA.

Siberia—Customs Regulations.

A copy has been received at the Board of Trade of a Russian Imperial Decree, dated the 16th October, 1902, extending to Siberia the operation of (*a*) the "Customs Code for European Trade" (with the exception of the rules dealing with special penalties for infractions of the Code within the frontier), and (*b*) the *Customs Regulations approved on 15th May, 1901.

The following is the substance of certain special regulations relating to the Customs formalities to be observed in Siberia as established by this Decree:—

1. The Minister of Finance is empowered to vary the regulations concerning the admission and clearance of ships and goods, the inspection of merchandise, and the payment of Customs duties thereon, in such manner as local conditions in Siberia may require; to fix the periods within which consignments of goods despatched through Customs outposts situated within the region of the Irkutsk Custom House must be delivered at that Custom House; and also to fix the periods for the conveyance of goods on which duty has not been paid from one Customs establishment in Siberia to another, or to the Moscow Custom House.

2. When consignments of goods destined for Irkutsk, or for places westward from that town, arrive at any of the Customs outposts marking the border-line of the Irkutsk Customs district, the conductors of the goods are required to produce, in respect of all foreign goods on which duty has not been paid, such documents as are required to be produced in respect of goods arriving at the guard-houses situated along the European frontier.

3. In the event of failure to produce these documents, a fine of the same amount as that exacted for failure to produce way-bills in respect of foreign goods imported at Customs establishments situated along the European land frontier, will be inflicted.

4. For failure to convey the goods, referred to in paragraph 2, from the outposts to Irkutsk, or to any other Custom House in the interior within the limits of time determined by the Minister of Finance, a fine will be inflicted of the same amount as in the case of failure to deliver at principal Custom Houses goods which have been unloaded at subsidiary Custom Houses.

BULGARIA.

Sanitary Regulations respecting the Admission of Goods.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a despatch from H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Sofia, in which it is stated that an Order issued by the Bulgarian Minister of the Interior prescribes the following sanitary measures in connection with the admission of goods into Bulgaria:—

* NOTE.—A translation of these Regulations was published in No. 569 "Miscellaneous Series" of the Diplomatic and Consular Reports, October, 1901.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

1. Goods produced in or proceeding from infected countries are admitted into Bulgaria only through Bourgas, Varna, and Hebibchevo, provided that 25 days have elapsed since their departure from the infected country, and that the vessel in which they are imported has a clean Bill of Health.

2. Sacks arriving from India and other infected countries are admitted into Bulgaria on the same conditions as other goods after external disinfection of the bales, if pressed by hydraulic power and undamaged.

3. Used sacks from uninfected countries are admitted into Bulgaria after thorough disinfection by steam.

SERVIA.

Importation of Waste Cotton.

The Board of Trade have received information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that a Circular has been addressed by the Servian Minister of Finance to the Customs authorities, prescribing the conditions under which waste cotton may be imported into Servia. The Circular notifies that waste cotton which has been obtained from the preparation of the pods for the manufacture of cotton or wadding and contains the seeds and orts, may be imported without undergoing a process of disinfection if it is accompanied by a certificate of origin and a declaration to the effect that there is no contagious disease among human beings or animals in the place whence it is sent. Waste cotton which does not fulfil these conditions must be disinfected in accordance with the regulations laid down for the purpose.

VENEZUELA.

Increased Import and Export Duties.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that a Decree has been issued by the Venezuelan Government increasing the duties on imports into Venezuela by 30 per cent., and imposing the following duties on exported coffee, cocoa and hides:—

		Dols.	Cts.
Coffee	50 kilogs.	2	00
Sweet cocoa (1st quality) ...	50 „	16	00
Hides (cattle)	46 „	4	00
Skins (goat and deer) ...	46 „	5	00

This Decree, which was signed on the 16th February, was to come into force from date of publication.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

PORTUGAL—ST. THOMÉ AND PRINCIPE.

Tariffs of Municipal Dues: Export Tariffs for St. Thomé, &c.

A recent report by Mr. Consul Nightingale on the trade and commerce of St. Thomé and Principe (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,922), contains the following statement of the Tariffs of the Municipal Dues, &c., in force in the islands of San Thomé and Principe respectively:—

I.—San Thomé. Tariff of Municipal Dues.

Articles.	Unit.	Rate of Duty on National (Portuguese) and Nationalised Goods.	Rate of Duty on Foreign Goods.
		Reis.	Reis.
Firearms	each	2,000	2,000
Sugar of all kinds	per kilo.	20	20
Horses	each	5,000	5,000
Mules	"	5,000	5,000
Donkeys	"	3,000	3,000
Fermented liquors, such as beer	per litre	50	70
Distilled liquors, such as plain rum up to 22 Cartier	"	50	50
Alcohol from 22 to 40 Cartier	"	80	80
Alcoholic liquors, distilled and not specified ...	"	200	200
Red and white wines and vinegar	"	2	10
Fine wines and any other drinks not specified...	"	50	80
Umbrellas (cotton)	each	50	50
" (silk)	"	200	200
Boots and shoes of all kinds	pair	50	50
Sweetmeats	per kilo.	200	200
Dynamite and other explosives	"	1,500	1,500
Fireworks	"	1,000	1,000
Gunpowder	"	300	300
Perfumery	*ad valorem*	10 %	15 %
Petroleum	per litre	10	10
Dried, salted, and smoked fish, and dried and salted beef	per kilo.	2	2
Earthenware	"	20	100
Enamelled or tinned ironware	"	10	20
Soaps...	"	200	200
Salt	" litre	7	7
Tobacco of all kinds	" kilo.	100	100
Silk fabrics, pure or mixed, made up or in piece	"	300	300
Cotton fabrics (coloured), merinos, alpacas, baizes and blankets	"	20	20
Cotton fabrics (white)	"	10	10
Flannels, knitted goods, woollen goods, cloths and kerseymeres...	"	60	60
Mineral waters	*ad valorem*	Free	5 %
Vehicles	"	2 %	2 "
Glassware of all kinds	per kilo.	10	50

NOTE.—The above imposts are collected when the goods are cleared through the Customs.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

II.—San Thomé. Export Tariff.

Articles.	Duty.
	Reis.
Coffee—	
Exported to the ports of Portugal or any other Portuguese possessions, in Portuguese bottoms	Kilog. 24
Exported to foreign ports in Portuguese bottoms	„ 45
„ „ foreign bottoms	„ 67·5
Cocoa—	
Exported to the ports of Portugal or any other Portuguese possessions, in Portuguese bottoms	„ 18
Exported to foreign ports in Portuguese bottoms	„ 37·5
„ „ foreign bottoms	„ 60
All other products not specified—	
Exported to the ports of Portugal or any other Portuguese possessions, in Portuguese bottoms	*ad val.* 1·5 %
Exported to foreign ports in Portuguese bottoms	„ 7·5 „
„ „ foreign bottoms	„ 22·5 „

III.—Principe. Tariff of Municipal Dues.

Articles.	Unit.	Rate of Duty on National Goods.	Rate of Duty on Foreign and National-ised Goods.
		Reis.	Reis.
Common rum	per litre	120	300
Alcohol	„	200	400
Firearms	each	3,000	5,000
Sugar (white)	per kilo.	free	20
„ (brown)	„	5	10
Rice	„	free	3
Oil (sweet or palm)	per litre	10	10
Mineral waters	*ad valorem*	free	5 %
Biscuits (all kinds)	per kilo.	100	300
Stockfish	„	free	10
Biscuits (hard)	„	5	10
Beer	per litre	60	100
Boots and shoes of all kinds	„ pair	200	500
Slippers	„	100	300
Cement	„ barrel	200	200
Beef (dried and salt)	„ kilo.	4	5
Preserved foodstuffs	*ad valorem*	5 %	15 %
Lime	per barrel	200	200
Corrugated iron	*ad valorem*	free	10 %
Umbrellas (silk)	„	10 %	15 „
„ (any other kind)	„	5 „	10 „
Tea	„	5 „	10 „
Dynamite or other inflammable materials not specified	per kilo.	2,000	4,000

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

Articles.	Unit.	Rate of Duty on National Goods.	Rate of Duty on Foreign and Nationalised Goods.
		Reis.	Reis.
Sweets in syrup	*ad valorem*	5 %	10 %
Fireworks	per kilo.	1,000	2,000
Dried fruits	*ad valorem*	5 %	10 %
Tissues of all kinds	"	3 "	10 "
Flour (maize or mandioca)	per kilo.	5	5
Beans and Spanish peas	*ad valorem*	3 %	5 %
Flour (wheat)	per kilo.	10	10
Effervescing drinks	" litre	60	100
Gin	"	120	300
Liqueurs, fine rums and brandies	"	200	360
Porcelain and delft ware, or any kind of fine ware	" kilo.	20	100
Ironware (enamelled or tinned)	"	10	20
Wood for building purposes	*ad valorem*	5 %	5 %
" (worked up)...	"	10 "	10 "
Gold and silver ornaments	"	20 "	30 "
Linseed oil and turpentine	"	5 "	10 "
Petroleum	per case	—	400
Gunpowder	" kilo.	200	400
Matches	*ad valorem*	10 %	15 %
Salt and dried fish...	per kilo.	5	5
Fish in oil	*ad valorem*	5 %	5 %
Cheese	"	5 "	15 "
Watches and clocks	"	10 "	25 "
Ready-made clothes	"	5 "	10 "
Soaps...	"	5 "	25 "
Silk, in piece or worked up	"	10 "	20 "
Common salt	per litre	5	5
Tobacco (in leaf or cake)	" kilo.	160	300
" (prepared)	"	300	1,000
Prepared paints	*ad valorem*	5 %	10 %
Tiles	per 1,000	2,000	2,000
" (Marseilles style)	"	3,000	3,000
Wine (common red)	" litre	2	2
" (" white)	"	3	3
Fine wines and other fine beverages not specified	"	50	100
Glassware of all kinds	" kilo.	10	50

It is to be noted in this connection that the statement on p. 7 of the Report to the effect that no import duties are levied in the island of Principe is corrected by later information, from which it appears that duties on imports are still charged in accordance with the Tariff of 16th April, 1892, with the exception of those levied on alcoholic beverages which were modified by a Law of the 7th May, 1902. A notice respecting this Law appeared at p. 450 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 5th June last.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

CHILE.

Customs Treatment of Cotton and Woollen Clothing.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a translation of Regulations issued by the Chief Superintendent of Customs in Chile, dated 29th January last, making certain provisions, as follows, relative to the assessment of duty on cotton and woollen clothing:—

Clothing of cotton, of linen, and of linen mixed with vegetable fibre, in pieces, not made up, shall be valued as the material of which made, with an addition of 40 per cent., except shirts of cotton flannel, cut out but not made up, which shall be valued as finished articles without any reduction.

Underclothing of wool, or of wool with an inferior admixture, cut out but not made up, shall be valued as finished clothing of the same quality, with a reduction of 20 per cent. on the valuation of finished clothing.

Woollen goods which contain an evident mixture of cotton shall be valued, without analysis, as of wool and cotton; if the mixture of cotton is not evident, they shall be valued as of pure wool.

NICARAGUA.

Prohibition of Exportation of Silver Coins.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a despatch from H.M. Consul at Grenada, stating that the Nicaraguan Government have recently issued a Decree whereby the exportation of all silver coins is prohibited.

ARGENTINA.

Tariff Classification of British Earthenware.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a despatch from H.M. Representative at Buenos Aires, reporting that articles of British earthenware imported into Argentina, if of common quality, will in future be assessed for duty under the headings in the Argentine Valuation Tariff for common earthenware ("*loza commun*"), and not under the headings for "semi-porcelain" ("*loza piédra ó semi-porcelana*"), on which the valuations are 30 per cent. higher. Import duty is levied on the valuations in question at the rate of 25 per cent. *ad valorem.*

It is added that, in order to avoid difficulties, British exporters should be careful to have different kinds of earthenware goods packed separately.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The Mercantile Marine Committee of the Board of Trade.

The Mercantile Marine Committee met on the 19th March and again on the 20th, at the Board of Trade; in the absence of Sir Francis Jeune, G.C.B., Mr. Walter J. Howell, C.B. (Deputy Chairman) presided, and the following members were present:—Mr. W. F. G. Anderson, Captain H. Acton-Blake, Mr. Thomas Burt, M.P., Captain A. J. G. Chalmers, Colonel J. M. Denny, M.P., Vice-Admiral R. M. Lloyd, C.B., Mr. William Milburn, Jun., and Mr. J. Havelock Wilson.

Mr. Cuthbert Laws, General Manager of the Shipping Federation, gave evidence as regards the food, accommodation, discipline, and the general conditions on board ship, and with regard to the employment of foreign and Asiatic seamen. Mr. Laws explained the steps the Shipping Federation is taking to obtain and train as sailors, boys of good character and physique, and suggested measures for popularising the Royal Naval Reserve.

Mr. Christopher T. Gardner, formerly H.M. Consul at Amoy, gave evidence on the conditions in British vessels engaged in the Chinese coasting trade, and between China and other parts of the world.

The Committee adjourned until the 2nd April.

FRANCE.

Internal Navigation in 1902.

According to official statistics published in the French "Journal Officiel" of 19th March, the length of canals used for internal navigation in France is 4,851 kiloms. (3,012 miles), and the length of the rivers and streams so used 7,513 kiloms. (4,665 miles). The tonnage of the cargo carried on the canals in 1902 was 16,441,129 tons, as compared with 17,017,590 tons in 1901, and the tonnage carried on rivers and streams 14,105,632 tons, as compared with 13,350,622 tons. The total tonnage of the cargo carried on all the internal waterways of France in 1902 was 30,546,761 tons, as compared with 30,368,212 tons in 1901.

FRANCE—MADAGASCAR.

Port and Harbour Regulations at Tamatave.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, an extract from the "Journal Officiel de Madagascar" of 28th January, containing a Decree for the regulation of the port and harbour of Tamatave. This Decree provides, *inter alia*, that the captain of each vessel entering the harbour must, within 24 hours, deposit with the port officers a written declaration, giving the name of the vessel, as well as that of the captain, the

owner or consignee, the tonnage of the vessel, draught of water, nature of cargo, particulars as to crew and passengers, &c. A similar declaration has to be made on leaving the harbour.

Goods must be removed from the quays, &c., within 24 hours after verification by the Customs.

No vessel may enter the harbour with loaded cannons or other firearms.

The full text of the Decree (in the original) may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

New S.S. Service to Central America and Mexico.

With reference to the notice on p. 453 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 26th February, a despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at Barcelona, forwarding a translation of an extract from the "Diario de Barcelona" of 9th March, reporting the inauguration of the new line of steamers between Trieste and Central America and Mexico, calling at Barcelona both on the outward and homeward journeys.

The new service will sail from Trieste and call at Genoa, Marseilles, and Barcelona, thence to Las Palmas and the principal ports of the Antilles, Central America, and Mexico, and thence once more to the Mediterranean and the Adriatic, calling at Barcelona.

The first steamer of this line to commence the new service will be the "Anna," which will sail from Barcelona on the 23rd March for Las Palmas, Campano La Guayra, Puerto Cabello, Curacao Sabanilla, Puerto Limon, Veracruz, Tampico and Progreso.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Increased Direct Imports into New Orleans.

In his recent report on the trade of New Orleans for the year 1902, H.M. Consul at that port states that formerly the trade consisted mainly in the receipt of produce from the interior, and its shipment abroad or coastwise; but now the city is importing more from Europe, and shipping more into the interior, and thus fewer vessels reach New Orleans in ballast, and fewer cars leave empty.

The leading articles imported consist of beet sugar, lemons, india-rubber (crude), coffee, cane sugar (raw and clarified), sisal hemp, bananas, cotton goods and grain bags.

The last few years have shown a steady improvement in

Shipping and Transport.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

imports. The total imports for the year amounted to 4,813,269*l.* in value, being an increase of nearly 600,000*l.* or 14 per cent. as compared with previous year, while the duties collected rose to 1,521,295*l.*, or 198,230*l.* more than in 1901.

There was an increase to the import trade in all classes of goods.

Sailings from London to New Orleans not sufficiently advertised.

H.M. Consul further states that complaints are made that the sailings between London and New Orleans of British ships are not sufficiently advertised. Regular lists of sailings supplied to import firms would facilitate business. Goods coming from British possessions to the New Orleans Import Company are transhipped, at present, at Antwerp from a British ship to a foreign flag, and proceed from Antwerp direct there. With fixed, and more regular sailings, these goods might be imported direct from London to New Orleans.

New South African Steamship Line and Cattle Export.

The British Vice-Consul at Pensacola in his report writes as follows:—"As reported in the 'Board of Trade Journal' of 16th October, 1902, a new steamship line has been formed under the name of the Atlantic and South African Steamship Company, Limited, controlled by the Lingham Timber and Trading Company of London. The company will begin to run their own steamers from Pensacola to South Africa in March, 1903. I have been informed on good authority that the company has made a contract for sending out to Africa 100,000 head of cattle through this port, which means an important increase in British shipping here." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,942.)

Discharged Alien Seamen to be Examined by Immigration Officials.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a despatch from H.M. Consul at New Orleans forwarding copy of a communication from the United States Immigrant Inspector at that port which reads as follows:—

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that, under the rules and regulations of the Treasury Department of the United States, all discharged alien seamen are required to be regularly examined under the immigration laws, precisely the same as other aliens; and you are respectfully requested not to permit any alien seamen, over whom you have supervision, to be discharged until they have been examined by the Immigration officials at this port.

This can be done without inconvenience by notifying me upon the arrival of the ship that has on board alien seamen to be

Shipping and Transport.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

discharged, giving name of ship and the dock at which she lands. Where this is done the Immigration officials will endeavour to reach the ship promptly and conduct the examination, otherwise the alien seamen must be brought to my office in the Custom-house.

Trusting that I may have your kind co-operation in this matter and requesting an acknowledgment of the receipt of this letter, I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) W. E. HOWARD,
Immigrant Inspector.

International Good Roads Congress at St. Louis.

According to a communication received at the Foreign Office from the American Embassy in London, a National and International Good Roads Congress will be held at the City of St. Louis, Missouri, from 27th April to 2nd May, 1903, under the auspices of the National Good Roads Association, the office of Public Road Enquiries of the Department of Agriculture, the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company, State County and City officials, commercial bodies and railway organisations. One of the chief objects of this congress is to arouse special interest throughout civilised countries in the betterment of the public highways, and the management are desirous of securing the attendance of the most skilful engineers and road builders from every country in order that they may interest and educate the United States delegates in the most perfect methods for the construction of roads and their maintenance.

In the official invitation issued by the organisers, it is stated that the deliberations of the convention will comprehend discussion upon scientific methods of common road construction, including plans for providing for their cost and maintenance, together with recommendations for practical public road legislation.

CUBA.

Requirements as to Entries and Clearances of Vessels in Cuban Ports.

The "Bulletin" of the International Bureau of the American Republics for February contains a report in regard to the entering, discharging, loading, and clearing of vessels in the ports of the Island of Cuba, which was submitted to the Customs Congress recently held in New York by the Delegate of the Republic of Cuba. This report gives information on the following subjects, namely:

(*a*) Requirements in the manifests of vessels arriving from a foreign port or leaving for a foreign port.

(*b*) Requirements in what pertains to the entering of a vessel arriving from a foreign port and to the clearance of those leaving for foreign ports.

(*c*) Requirements in connection with the unloading of vessels after having entered and existing regulations as to unloading at night.

(*d*) Time allowed for unloading vessels.

(*e*) Requirements to enable foreign vessels to proceed from one port to another in each country for the purpose of loading and unloading cargo and of taking in and landing passengers.

(*f*) Descriptions of the taxes and charges to which vessels are subjected by national laws.

(*g*) Methods used for the measurement of vessels.

(*h*) Advantages and disadvantages of adopting respective gross or net tonnage as a basis for the taxes levied.

The "Bulletin" containing the report may be seen on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., on any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

NATAL.

Coal Output in 1902.

With reference to the notice on p. 499 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 5th March last, a later statement appears in the "Natal Government Gazette" of 21st February, from which it appears that the output of coal in Natal in December last was 45,509 tons, and the output for the whole year 592,752 tons, as compared with 569,200 tons in 1901.

The following table shows the disposal of the output in each of the last two years :—

——	1901.	1902.
	Tons.	Tons.
Exported from Durban by sea	55,757	11,822
" overland to Orange River Colony and Transvaal..	1,865	794
Bunkered at Durban	247,166	226,540
Consumed on Natal Government Railway	146,234	180,421
Otherwise consumed or stacked in the Colony	118,178	173,175
Total	569,200	592,752

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

AUSTRALIA—WEST AUSTRALIA.

Gold Production in February, 1903.

The Board of Trade have received from the office of the Agent-General for Western Australia a communication stating that the crushing returns for the month of February, 1903, for all gold mining companies in the State are as follows, the figures for February, 1902, being added for the sake of comparison:—

—	February, 1902.	February, 1903.
Ore treated	146,600 tons	160,939 tons
Yield of gold	158,108 ozs.	187,771 ozs.
Average yield per ton...	1 oz. 1 dwt. 13 grs.	1 oz. 3 dwts. 89 grs.

TASMANIA.

Mineral Production in 1901-02.

Referring to the notice on pp. 404–5 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 19th February, the Board of Trade have received from Mr. E. A. Nowell, Clerk of the Executive and Legislative Council of Tasmania, the following figures taken from the reports of the Tasmanian Secretary for Mines for the years 1901-2 and 1900-1, which show the mineral production of Tasmania during those years:—

—		1900–1.	1901–2.
Gold won (fine)	ozs.	79,543	69,798
Silver ore, raised	tons	24,327	37,699
Tin ore, raised	"	2,993	2,807
Coal, raised	"	43,010	71,820
Copper, blister	"	9,382	9,734
Copper ore	"	11,572	8,029
Iron ore	"	2,772	2,044

The total value of the mineral products in 1901-2 is returned at 1,590,874*l.*, as compared with 1,813,105*l.* in 1900-1, the decrease being principally caused by the decline in the prices of the metals—silver, copper, tin, and lead.

Coal is met with in many parts of Tasmania, and mention is made in the Report of the Secretary for Mines of various seams of good quality from 2¼ to 12 feet thick. The existence of immense deposits of rich iron ores at the Blythe River, Penguin, and Ilfracombe, together with the numerous coalfields, gives good ground for the anticipation that Tasmania may in the future become an important manufacturing centre for the Australian States.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

NEW ZEALAND.

Gold Exports in 1902.

According to a statement published in the "New Zealand Gazette" of the 29th January last, the quantity of New Zealand gold exported during 1902 was 508,045 ounces, valued at 1,951,433*l.*, as compared with 455,561 ounces, valued at 1,753,783*l.*, for the year 1901.

RUSSIA.

Production of Quicksilver in 1902.

The special correspondent of the New York "Engineering and Mining Journal" reports that during the year 1902 the quicksilver mines worked in Russia by A. Auerbach and Company produced a total of 25,424 pouds, equal to 416,441 kilogs. of quicksilver, or 11,974 flasks.

FRANCE.

Iron and Steel Production in 1902.

The French "Journal Officiel" of 14th March, publishes statistics relating to the production of iron and steel in France in 1902, with comparative figures for the preceding year on which the following table is based :—

	1901.	1902.
	Tons.	Tons.
Cast iron—		
Forge pig	1,812,062	2,012,232
Foundry pig	576,761	415,195
Total	2,388,823	2,427,427
Iron—		
Rails	216	320
Wrought iron (various)	524,303	572,541
Sheets	42,636	52,965
Total	567,155	625,826
Steel—		
Rails	291,528	301,434
Wrought steel (various)	614,018	653,931
Sheets	269,908	276,287
Total	1,175,454	1,231,652
Bessemer and Siemens-Martin ingots	1,425,351	1,635,300

NOTE.—The figures for 1901 given above are definite, those for 1902 are only provisional.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Production of Precious Stones in 1902.

According to the "Engineering and Mining Journal" (New York) of 7th March, a preliminary report submitted to the United States Geological Survey by Mr. G. F. Kunz, Special Agent in charge of precious stones, says that the year 1902 has been remarkable in the precious stone industry in the United States in a number of particulars, among which the following may be especially noted:—The finding of a new locality for sapphires in Montana—a new creek, in the bed of which sapphires are found associated with gold, as in Rock Creek region at Yogo Gulch, and on the Missouri near Helena; the further development of a new mine of blue sapphires in Fergus County; and the continued workings of the other two mines in the same State. Then comes the mining and development of the old beryl localities in Mitchell County, N. C., and the development of the beryl locality at Grafton, N. H. An amethyst mine has been opened in South Carolina, and two new amethyst deposits have been found in the State of Virginia. The mining of rubellite in San Diego County, Cal., continues, and a new deposit near Banner in the same region has been found. The further development of chrysoprase in Tulare County, Cal., and the discovery of a new locality in Buncombe County, N. C., are to be noted. A deposit of vesuvianite (idocrase) has been discovered in Central California. The output of turquoise from eight or more western localities continues, and it has been discovered at two localities in Alabama, the most easterly region yet known for that gem.

It has been the greatest year on record for the importation of diamonds, pearls and other precious stones. The imports, also, of topaz, both the true and the so-called Spanish, Saxon, and Scotch varieties, of coral in delicate tints of pink, and of seed pearls and pearls in ropes, are worthy of remark.

The value of the production of precious stones in the United States during 1902, as compared with 1901, was as follows:—

——	1901.	1902.
	Dollars.	Dollars.
Turquoises	118,000	130,000
Sapphires	90,000	115,000
Tourmaline	15,000	15,000
Quartz, crystal...	10,000	12,000
Chrysoprase	1,500	10,000
Beryl	5,000	4,000
Amethyst	500	2,000
Emerald	1,000	1,000
Other stones	48,050	29,300
Total	289,050	318,300

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

Coal Mining Industry of the Southern States.

In an article on the coal mining industry of the Southern States of America written for the "Iron Age" (New York) by Mr. Frederick E. Saward, it is stated that there is no section of the United States where the coal output has increased so rapidly within recent years as in the South, and this must continue to be so, because there the mineral lies in such a position as to be readily mined at a comparatively low rate per ton. Certain of the returns are now available for last year and they show continued growth.

The following table shows the actual production of coal in the States of Alabama, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indian Territory, Texas, and Maryland, in each of the years 1899–1901, together with the estimated production for 1902:—

State.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Alabama	7,484,763	8,247,921	8,776,110	10,327,713*
West Virginia	19,252,995	22,647,207	24,068,402	25,500,000
Virginia	2,105,791	2,393,754	2,725,873	3,000,000
Kentucky	4,607,255	5,328,964	5,469,986	6,200,000
Tennessee	3,330,659	3,509,562	3,633,290	4,300,000
Indian Territory	1,537,427	1,922,298	2,421,721	3,000,000
Texas	883,832	968,373	1,107,953	1,200,000
Maryland	4,807,396	4,024,688	5,113,127	5,622,003*

NOTE.—The ton is the short ton of 2,000 lbs. * Actual production.

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 21st March last, were as follow:—

Wheat	25*s.* 1*d.*
Barley	22*s.* 9*d.*
Oats	16*s.* 10*d.*

For further particulars see p. 654.

Imports of Agricultural Produce.

A statement is published on p. 655, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 21st March last, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1902.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

Cotton Cultivation.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a letter which H.M. Commissioner and Consul-General for the British East Africa Protectorate has addressed to the British Cotton Growing Association relative to reports made by experts on samples of cotton grown in East Africa.

H.M. Commissioner considers that these papers prove that the locality is capable of producing satisfactory samples.

Copies of these reports may be seen by persons interested on application at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

CEYLON.

Cocoanut Palm Industry.

A special issue of the "Ceylon Independent," entitled "Industrial and Commercial Ceylon," in the course of an article on the cocoanut palm industry in Ceylon, states that within the past 10 to 15 years there has been a great development of cultivation of the cocoanut palm in that island, partly through the growth in knowledge and enterprise of the Ceylonese themselves, and partly through the appreciation by Europeans of the fact that, though the returns from cocoanuts are slow, they are surer than from any other industry, and that, as an investment, there is nothing to

Agriculture.

equal palm cultivation. It is said to be the only great agricultural product whose home consumption is even larger than the export trade.

The "Ceylon Independent" estimates the production of the island at not less than 800 million nuts, of which nearly 400 millions were sent away in the husk, in the shell, as oil, and after desiccation, and the remainder used for various purposes by the people of the country.

It is estimated that, including dwelling gardens, about 700,000 acres are planted with the cocoanut palm. This acreage, at 75 trees to the acre and 20 nuts to the tree, should yield 1,050 million nuts, but a large number of trees are reserved for toddy drawing and the distillation therefrom of the spirit known as arrak. The value of the arrak consumed in the island (over a million gallons) has been computed in a recent official paper at Rs. 7,629,067, and of this sum the Government now receives Rs. 3,000,000 a year, or one-eighth of the total revenue, by the sale of the monopoly of retailing the spirit to "renters." The importance, therefore, of the cocoanut industry to the people and to the country is beyond controversy, and the growth of the industry is steadily maintained.

ARGENTINA.

Estimated Production of Wheat and Linseed in 1902-03.

H.M. Consul at Buenos Ayres, in a recent despatch to the Foreign Office, reports that the Argentine Ministry of Agriculture has published the following estimate of the area sown and the production of wheat and linseed in the Provinces of Buenos Ayres, Santa Fé, Entre Rios and Cordoba for the crop of 1902-3:—

—	Area sown.	Estimated Yield.
	Acres.	Tons.
Wheat	9,000,000	3,100,000
Linseed	3,250,000	764,000

It is estimated that the rest of the Republic will produce this year 100,000 tons of wheat and 10,000 tons of linseed.

In connection with the foregoing, the Consul adds he is informed that the general opinion is that the yield has been somewhat over estimated. The wheat will be of excellent quality, but much of the linseed has been damaged and stained by rains at harvest time.

Agriculture.

SAMOA.

Cacao Planting.

In his report for the year 1902, the Acting British Vice-Consul at Apia states that the mainstay of Samoa is cacao. There is, he says, little reason to doubt that 20 acres of cacao in full bearing yield a substantial income. On the other hand there are drawbacks, *e.g.*, the possibility of hurricanes which will throw the plantations back three years, and the danger from disease.

Persons should not go to Samoa to plant cacao unless they have at least a capital of 1,000*l.* In five years' time, from the date of planting, the trees should be in full bearing, provided they are well attended to during that period. Some people say they will bear sooner, but as an average statement the above is correct.

Samoan cacao was recently quoted at 95 pf. per lb. in Hamburg, equivalent to 5*l.* per cwt. The trees have, in most existing small plantations, produced at least sufficient to pay expenses in the fourth year, and when in full bearing, from the fifth year onward, have so far exceeded the average output of other countries.

Hitherto no disease has manifested itself, and as a safeguard the Government has wisely prohibited the importation of seed from other countries.

No doubt, continues the Vice-Consul, there is a great future in Samoa for plantation companies, assuming that the price of cacao does not fall with increased production. There should be, with proper management, very heavy dividends. Some particulars of a plantation company now at work are contained in the report.

The Vice-Consul adds that various enquiries from Englishmen reach his Consulate respecting Samoa. For their information it may be said that that country offers no inducement to needy immigrants of any nationality. Knowledge of the German language by persons seeking employment in Apia is necessary. Trading and storekeeping are completely exhausted. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,937.)

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 19th March was 79,541 and the number imported during the 12 weeks ended the 19th March was 1,328,352. As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 19th March, 12,267 bales, and for the 12 weeks, 119,418.

For further details see p. 654.

Inspectors of Weights and Measures.

The following Inspectors of Weights and Measures have passed the examination provided for in the 11th section of the Weights and Measures Act, 1889:—

Alford, John Charles, Dunfermline; Bell, Edwin, Yorks., West Riding; Donald, Alexander, Berwickshire; Duffus, George, Elgin Burgh; George, John, Roxburgh; Gregson, Harold, Liverpool; Hughes, James, Tynemouth; Imrie, Alexander McRaith, South Shields; Jeckell, John, Durham County; Lake, Charles Monks, Birmingham; Macdiarmid, Alexander, Glasgow; MacKenzie, John, Inverness Burgh; McLaren, Charles Cameron, Govan; Meara, Ernest, Kingston-upon-Hull; Smith, Peter Chalmers, Arbroath; Storey, Herbert, Leeds.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—VICTORIA.

Trade in 1902.

The "Journal of Commerce" (Melbourne) of the 10th February publishes the following comparative statement of the value of imports into Victoria, both of Australian and other origin, during each of the last five years:—

Year.	From Australian States.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£
1898	7,097,041	9,671,863	16,768,904
1899	7,756,768	10,196,126	17,952,894
1900	6,087,903	12,213,840	18,301,743
1901	5,614,847	13,325,624	18,939,400
1902	4,781,852	13,476,358	18,258,210

The imports of specie and bullion included in the gross total of 1902 was 1,389,854*l.*, as compared with 1,197,908*l.* in 1901, and 1,534,245*l.* in 1900.

The value of the exports during the last quinquennial period compare as follows:—

Miscellaneous.

Year.	Victorian Produce.	Re-exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1898	11,778,883	4,093,363	15,872,246
1899	14,038,600	4,529,180	18,567,780
1900	13,006,027	4,416,425	17,422,452
1901	14,134,026	4,512,070	18,646,096
1902	13,798,209	4,400,766	18,198,975

Of the gross total of exports, 4,318,746*l.* was bullion and specie, as against 4,302,861*l.* in 1901, and 4,155,335*l.* in 1900.

The following is a comparative table of quantities of the principal articles, the produce of Victoria, exported during each of the last three years. The figures have been taken by the Melbourne "Journal" from official records:—

—		1900.	1901.	1902.
Sheep	No.	142,599	203,149	324,201
Biscuits	lbs.	3,224,080	3,758,597	3,994,927
Butter	"	37,793,181	29,146,393	15,040,029
Wheat	centals	3,002,077	4,664,887	1,779,349
Raisins	lbs.	663,177	824,806	1,327,643
Wine...	gals.	375,083	364,780	361,035
Rabbits	pairs	2,839,112	2,092,628	3,274,210
Bacon	lbs.	2,050,341	2,552,814	3,160,275
Sheepskins	No.	710,531	1,610,909	1,850,145
Jams and jellies	lbs.	3,415,455	3,153,566	7,773,234
Manufactured tobacco	"	11,731	148,290	544,171
Wool	bales	240,328	247,908	138,261

GERMANY.

Commercial Experts at German Consulates.

With reference to the notices published at p. 335 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 9th August, 1900, p. 146 of the issue for 18th April, 1901, and p. 330, of that for 9th May, 1901, respecting the appointment of commercial experts to German Consulates, a memorandum by the Commercial Attaché to H.M. Embassy at Berlin states that at a recent sitting of the Budget Committee of the Reichstag on the 1903 estimates, when the proposed alterations, under the head of foreign affairs, were gone into, the question of the appointments of further "Commercial Experts" at German Consular Posts abroad was brought up in connection with the increased vote of 8,500*l.* for that purpose, being 1,000*l.* more than for 1902.

The Head of the Commercial Department of the Foreign Office

Miscellaneous.

stated that new appointments were contemplated at Chicago, San Francisco, Rome and Madrid, and in India and South Africa. He added—in answer to a question as to what kind of men would obtain these posts—that they would chiefly consist of business men of large experience, such as secretaries of German Chambers of Commerce and German factory inspectors. He added that men, specially versed in the German export trade, would be selected in preference to any others.

FRANCE—MARTINIQUE.

Trade in 1902.

The appalling disaster which befell Martinique last year could not fail to exercise a profound influence on the commerce of that colony. The value of the total trade, which from 1899 to 1901 averaged 52,000,000 frs. fell to 36,000,000 frs. in 1902. The following figures extracted from the "Dépêche Coloniale" of 15th March, show the value of the imports into and the exports from Martinique during each of the last five years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
1898	24,368,390	22,344,860	46,713,250
1899	27,004,526	26,603,147	53,607,673
1900	24,929,348	27,160,890	52,090,238
1901	26,973,431	24,016,649	50,990,080
1902	19,118,997	17,202,461	36,321,458

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Cotton Prices and Crop.

H.M. Consul at New Orleans, quoting from the New Orleans Cotton Exchange report, says that on the basis of middling, which represents the average of the cotton crop, a fair average of price for the United States, during the year ending with the close of August last, is 8·6 c. per lb., comparing with 9·33 c. per lb. for last year, 7·65 c. per lb. for the year before, and 4·88 c. per lb. for 1898-99, the highest price touched during the season having been 9¾ c. per lb. and the lowest 7¼ c. per lb.

The average commercial value per bale of the crop is 8*l.* 9*s.* 1½*d.*, against 9*l.* 13*s.* 10¾*d.* last year, 7*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* the year before, and 5*l.* 3*s.* 1½*d.* in 1898-99.

The total value of the crop compared with the previous five years is as follows:—

Miscellaneous.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Bales.	£
1901–02	10,680,680	87,602,937
1900–01	10,383,422	98,913,508
1899–1900	9,436,416	72,756,964
1898–99	11,274,840	56,554,597
1897–98	11,199,994	64,110,521
1896–97	8,757,964	64,384,966

Importation of Foreign Cotton.

In the same report the Consul states that the importation of foreign cotton during the year amounted to 92,452,468 lbs., of which 527,084 lbs. were re-exported, leaving the net amount retained in the United States at 91,925,384 lbs., an equivalent of 180,802 bales in American weights this year, against 56,100,499 lbs. in 1900-01, equal in American bales to 109,941. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series,* 2,942.)

JAPAN.

Coral Fishing Industry.

According to a Japanese journal, the "Kobe Chronicle," the coral fishing industry in the Sea of Kagoshima is in a very prosperous condition, and has a great future before it. During the first ten months of 1902 a fleet of 30 boats has been engaged in the industry, the value of the coral gathered in this period being estimated at 20,603 yen (2,088*l.*). The white varieties of coral form the greater part of the quantity gathered, amounting to 182,433 kwamme; the rose-coloured variety amounting to 120,617 kwamme, and the red variety to 7,890 kwamme.

A bed of coral discovered last year near Tsuto Island produces coral of the best quality, which it is said is able to compete with Italian coral, and which has been sold at 111 yens per kin or catty (about 8*l.* 11*s.* per lb.).

NOTE.—Kwamme = 8·2817 lbs. avoirdupois.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported** at the **Various Ports** of the **United Kingdom** during the Week and 12 Weeks ended 19th March, 1903.

—	Week ended 19th Mar., 1903.	12 Weeks ended 19th Mar., 1903.	Week ended 19th Mar., 1903.	12 weeks ended 19th Mar., 1903.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	61,385	1,073,427	5,110	55,369
Brazilian	—	55,431	—	9,566
East Indian	4,164	18,933	1,020	6,680
Egyptian	11,880	170,984	5,985	45,564
Miscellaneous	2,112	9,577	152	2,239
Total	79,541	1,328,352	12,267	119,418

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the **Average Price** of **British Corn**, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 21st March, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

—	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ended 21st March, 1903	25	1	22	9	16	10
Corresponding week in—						
1896	24	10	21	4	13	4
1897	27	9	22	5	16	3
1898	35	4	28	6	17	8
1899	25	4	26	8	17	0
1900	25	11	25	0	17	1
1901	25	8	24	11	17	9
1902	27	1	26	4	20	6

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of **Agricultural Produce** imported into the **United Kingdom** in the week ended 21st March, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

—		Week ended 21st Mar., 1903.	Corresponding week in 1902.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	5,227	9,019
Sheep and lambs	"	3,610	5,045
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	651	857
Fresh meat :—			
Beef...	Cwts.	71,438	73,326
Mutton	"	55,059	85,990
Pork	"	14,129	15,581
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	92,092	109,212
Beef	"	1,554	3,762
Hams	"	13,715	31,359
Pork	"	3,163	5,230
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	17,670	17,421
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	5,495	18,691
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	56,449	69,338
Margarine	"	17,465	18,714
Cheese	"	22,192	44,410
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	228	434
" cream	"	95	76
" condensed	"	16,420	20,454
" preserved, other kinds	"	59	77
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	448,832	375,806
Poultry and game	Value £	19,353	26,218
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	7,523	4,791
Lard	"	32,784	59,880
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,368,774	1,060,300
Wheat-meal and flour	"	868,332	272,700
Barley	"	315,120	231,800
Oats	"	200,007	218,900
Peas	"	8,984	35,600
Beans	"	24,516	10,300
Maize or Indian corn	"	730,422	724,000
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	77,126	24,044
Apricots and peaches	"	13	8
Bananas	Bunches.	63,312	26,238
Cherries	Cwts.	—	—
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	—	—
Grapes	"	450	224
Lemons	"	19,761	24,581
Oranges	"	231,557	269,507
Pears	"	104	222
Plums	"	70	13
Strawberries	"	—	—
Unenumerated	"	563	1,379
Hay	Tons.	4,009	12,178
Straw	"	599	2,496
Hops	Cwts.	1,410	1,509
Locust beans...	"	1,143	3,505
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	110,814	100,506
Potatoes	Cwts.	40,053	46,134
Tomatoes	"	16,250	7,066
Unenumerated	Value £	8,826	16,211
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	1,630	908
Preserved by canning	"	2,217	6,675

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of February, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1*s.*) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1901, in two Volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 6*s.* 7*d.* for the first, and 4*s.* 10*d.* for the second Volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1897-1901, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and, in the second volume, details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transhipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 17th March:—State of the Labour Market in February; Fatal Accidents to Workpeople in 1902; Agricultural Holdings in Scotland from August to December, 1902; The Price of Bread, Wheat and Flour; Recent Progress in Co-operation; Recent Cases under the Conciliation Act; Legal Cases affecting Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in a Consular Report of the **Annual Series** issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 2,943. Odessa (Supplementary) 1901.

Exports of grain, oil seeds, &c., according to returns by the Exchange Committee.

New rule for grain loading in Odessa harbour.

Openings for import and export trade with Eastern China.

Imports of Odessa.

Changed conditions in the iron trade.

Freight rates.

Shipping and other industries.

Comparative tables of imports with notes on fluctuations and prices.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Report by the Board of Trade on the Railway, Canal, Tramway, Harbour and Tidal Waters, Electricity, Gas and Water Bills, and Provisional Orders of Session 1903. 73. *Price* 7*d.*

According to this report the total number of Bills deposited for the Session of 1903, relating to Railways, Canals, Tramways, and the supply of Electricity, Gas, and Water, is 188, as compared with 185 of the Session of 1902; the total amount of money proposed to be raised is 75,287,015*l.* as compared with 97,678,090*l.* The number of Bills relating to railways and canals is 67, of which 42 propose to authorise the construction of new railways or additional railway works; the capital proposed to be raised by railway and canal bills amounts to 55,773,830*l.*, whilst the length of line proposed to be constructed is 467 miles.

Ordnance Survey Maps of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Ordnance Survey are issuing a new series of folding pocket maps for England and Wales on the scale of one inch to the mile. The maps are printed in colours on sheets 18 by 12 inches, mounted on canvas, in a cover or flat, price 1*s.* each. The one-inch map can also be procured at the same price in black and white, showing outline and contours; or in outline, with hills printed either in black or brown: the outline map has recently been revised. These maps are not only useful for general topographical purposes, but should also prove serviceable to cyclists and pedestrians, since they show all roads, indicating their character, and whether metalled or not, footpaths, hills, rivers, towns, villages, railway stations, and local boundaries.

Combined one-inch outline maps have also been published of Bath, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Bradford, Brighton and Worthing, Bristol, Chatham, Clovelly, Derby, Dorchester and Portland, Gloucester and Cheltenham, Huddersfield, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Nottingham, Plymouth, Rugby, Sheffield and the Peak, Warrington, Warwick and Leamington, Weymouth, Winchester, Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow, the Isle of Wight, the Lake District of England, the New Forest, and South-East Kent. Additional maps are in course of preparation.

These combined maps are based on the revised one-inch map. In most cases they are being published folded in covers, and with the principal roads coloured, at prices varying from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*

Cheap maps of counties, groups of counties, or districts, are also being published on the ¼-in. scale, with main roads coloured, at 6*d.* plain, or 9*d.* if folded in a cover.

There are agents for the sale of Ordnance Survey Maps in most of the chief towns, and maps can be ordered and indexes, &c., seen at many Head Post Offices, in places where there are no agents. They can also be ordered, through any bookseller, from the Director-General, Ordnance Survey, Southampton; or in the case of Ireland, from the Officer in Charge, Ordnance Survey, Dublin.

Government Publications.

LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in italics.

No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—	
	Denmark:	
2934	Denmark (Supplementary) 1901	1*d.*
	France:	
2941	French Guinea ...1901	½*d.*
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	Italy:	
2930	Finances of Italy ...1902	1¼*d.*
2933	Italy 1901	3*d.*
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2943	Odessa (Supplementary) 1901	1½*d.*
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2932	Crete 1901	1*d.*
2926	Eastern Coast of the Red Sea ... 1899–1901	2*d.*
	AFRICA—	
2931	Alexandria ... 1901 and part of 1902	1*d.*

No.	Place.	Price
588	*Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, Uganda*	½*d.*
	AMERICA, NORTH—	
	United States of America:	
2942	New Orleans 1902	2½*d.*
587	*Coal Industry of the United States in 1901*	2*d.*
	Mexico:	
2925	Mexico 1901	2½*d.*
	AMERICA, SOUTH—	
	Argentina:	
2940	Argentine finances 1901–02	1½*d.*
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2938	Brazil ... First half of 1902	½*d.*
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2927	Hayti 1901	1*d.*
	ASIA—	
	Siam:	
2929	Chiengmai 1901	1*d.*
	PACIFIC ISLANDS—	
2937	Samoa 1902	1*d.*

Government Publications.

Treaty Series.

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources :—

No.	———	Price.
	EUROPE—	
	Belgium:	
1	Convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium regulating telephonic communication between the two countries	½*d.*
	France:	
2	Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar	1*d.*
	ASIA—	
	Corea:	
3	Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field	½*d.*

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.:—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2½*d.*
378	British Guiana	2½*d.*
379	Mauritius	3½*d.*
380	Basutoland	3*d.*
381	Southern Nigeria	2½*d.*
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1½*d.*

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The "Intelligence Branch" endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1*d*. In future periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.
January, 1903.

LC DUPLICATE

Vol. XL. No. 330.

Price ONE PENNY.

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THE Board of Trade Journal

(With which is Incorporated the "Imperial Institute Journal.")

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

MARCH 26, 1903.

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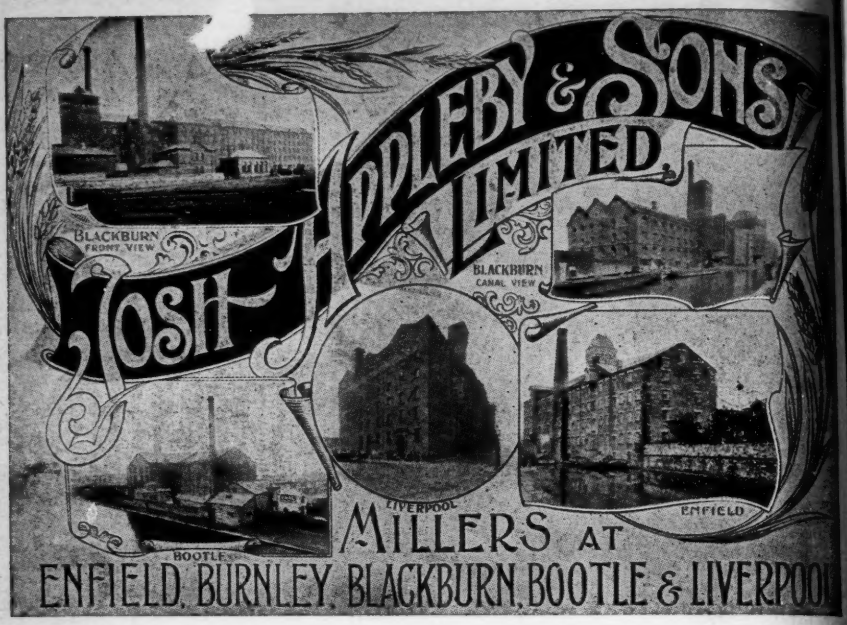
Advertisement Department, 85, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

For Shippers' and Manufacturers' Advertisements, &c. (Index of), see pages xi.-xxv. of Advertisements.



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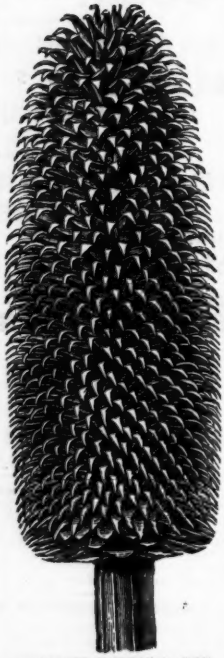

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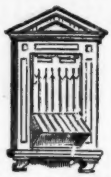

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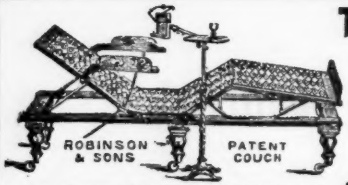

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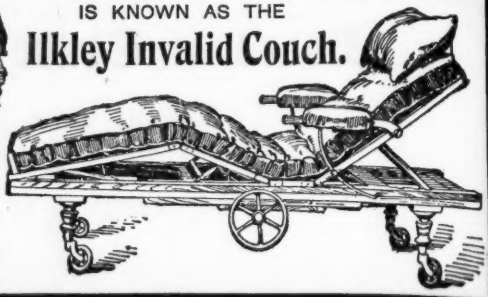

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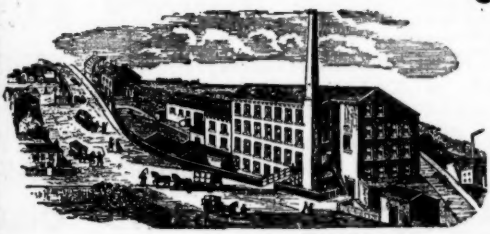

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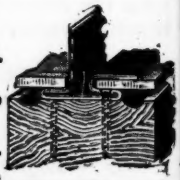

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Cables and Wires—
Connolly Bros., Ltd., Blackley, Manchester
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Hooper's Telegraph and India-rubber Works, Ltd., London, E.C.
Ramsden, Camm & Co., Ltd., Brighouse, Yorks.
St. Helen's Cable Co., Ltd., Warrington
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Sun Electrical Co., Ltd., London, W.C.
Telegraph Manufacturing Co., Ltd., The, Helsby, Warrington

Candle Manufacturers—
Groton & Tennant, Ltd., Aberdeen
Palmer & Co., Ltd., 43, Holborn Viaduct, E.C.
Price's Patent Candle Co., Limited, London, S.W.
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Forder & Co., Ltd., Warrant Holders to H.M. the King, Upper St. Martin's Lane, W.C.; Works, Wolverhampton
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Cartridge Manufacturers—
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Moore, J. T., Langley, Macclesfield

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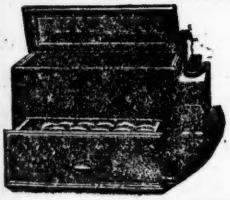

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Howorth, James, & Co., Farnworth, near Manchester .. ..

Fans—
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Schiele Union Engineering Co., Ltd., Manchester.. .. ..

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Barnard, Bishop & Barnards Ltd., Norwich .. ..

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Makin, Wm., & Sons, Sheffield .. ..

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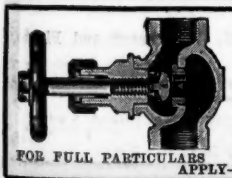

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